

From: [Choromanski, Ed](#)
To: [Ray Basso](#)
Cc: [Cozzi, Tom](#); [MacGregor, Janine](#); [Butler, Elizabeth](#); [Hoppe, Michael](#); [Day, Vanessa](#); [Meyer, Jeffrey](#); [Si, Larry](#); [Skacel, Wolfgang](#); [Ken Eng](#)
Subject: RE: Iron Bound Odors
Date: Thursday, September 6, 2012 8:34:05 AM

Ray ..

I totally agree. We do need to go over the material that our Department has gathered and the incidents that we investigated. I would also like to have my staff from our Northern Regional Office that investigated the odors present at the meeting.

I am usually in and out of the office all day. But if someone can call Shirley Nelson at (609)-633-7288, she will coordinate on my end all staff that will attend.

I do not recall receiving the air monitoring data that your office may have collected. You may have sent it, but since I was on vacation almost all of August I don't have it in my files. If your office can send it again, I would appreciate having the information prior to our meeting. I will also ask our staff to compile all data and complaints the Department received and our investigation reports and provide them to your office also before any meeting.

Looking forward to meeting with you and your staff on this issue.

Edward M. Choromanski

Director

Air & Hazardous Materials Compliance & Enforcement

(609)-633-7288 – Phone

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ed.choromanski@dep.state.nj.us

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From: Ray Basso [mailto:Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 5:24 PM
To: Choromanski, Ed
Cc: Cozzi, Tom; MacGregor, Janine; Elizabeth Butler; Michael Hoppe
Subject: Fw: Iron Bound Odors

Ed, as per the attached email thread, we were suppose to get together and have a discussion regarding the odor complaints you were investigating in Newark a few months ago. For a number of reasons, I still think that it is relevant for us to meet and share our data and findings. I suggest that we meet at the EPA office in Edison NJ as soon as your schedule allows. Let me know what dates work for you. Also, as you indicated in you email below, can you send us the information you gathered in your investigation before we meet. I believe we have forwarded all our air monitoring data to you a few months ago. Thanks.

-----Forwarded by Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US on 09/05/2012 04:45PM -----

To: "Choromanski, Ed" <Ed.Choromanski@dep.state.nj.us>
From: Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US
Date: 07/17/2012 04:34PM
Cc: Barbara McGarry/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Ken Eng/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Si, Larry" <Larry.Si@dep.state.nj.us>, "Cozzi, Tom" <Tom.Cozzi@dep.state.nj.us>, "Day, Vanessa" <Vanessa.Day@dep.state.nj.us>
Subject: Re: Iron Bound Odors

Ed, Thanks for getting back to me and for offering to share the information your staff has gathered. In a perfect world we could have worked together on this on a real time basis as per the procedures in the air permit equivalent. Be that as it may, I look forward to receiving the information you offered so that we may arrange a meeting to work together on an appropriate path forward. Thanks and feel free to contact me on my cell at 914 803 2773 as I will be out of the office for the rest of this week.

-----"Choromanski, Ed" <Ed.Choromanski@dep.state.nj.us> wrote: -----

To: Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Choromanski, Ed" <Ed.Choromanski@dep.state.nj.us>
Date: 07/17/2012 09:50AM
Cc: Ken Eng/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Barbara McGarry/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Cozzi, Tom" <Tom.Cozzi@dep.state.nj.us>, "Day, Vanessa" <Vanessa.Day@dep.state.nj.us>, "Si, Larry" <Larry.Si@dep.state.nj.us>
Subject: Iron Bound Odors

Ray ..

Thank you for your response.

First, staff that did the on-site visit at the remediation site indicated that the odors they experienced during their investigation the night before were similar to those that they have experienced while on site near the demobilized equipment and tanks. The odors the night before were identified from across the river with the wind blowing to their direction. This is the same odors that were previously detected by inspectors at the citizens' home as well as in the area of I-280.

Second, Since we were not sure the source of the odors were emanating from over the past months, there was no one to share the data with. During this time period we were investigating multiple locations using reverse trajectory models and knowledge of various manufacturing sites in the area to determine the source of the odors. However, we can provide a diagram and complaint log that indicates the "epicenter" of all the complaints based on wind directions on

those dates would be the remediation site. The commencement of operations at the remediation site seems to track the timeframe of odor complaints received by the Department. We will provide an electronic copy of our complaint log for these citizen complaints as well as our diagram of the odor complaints.

We have not referred or directed any citizen calls to EPA R2 at this time. However, the citizens and the community group are aware that it is our belief that the source of the odors they experienced could have been coming from the remediation work. Note an onsite contractor did advise our staff that "if you think there are odors now, you should have been here when we were operating".

Staff also ruled out the work that was on-going at the Sherwin Williams site as it was mostly related to dust in the area, not odors.

I do believe that a meeting to further discuss our findings would be helpful to all parties and would welcome the chance to discuss the information we have gathered over the last few months. I would like to provide the information we have to you first and then set up a meeting to further discuss the issues. We are also reviewing the odor response protocol that is part of the "air permit equivalency" issued by the Department for future incidents that are reported to the DEP hotline.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Edward M. Choromanski

Director

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From: Ray Basso [<mailto:Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 4:33 PM

To: Choromanski, Ed

Cc: Ken Eng; Barbara McGarry; Elizabeth Butler; Cozzi, Tom

Subject: odor memo

Ed, in response to your e-mail to Ken Eng attached below, I felt it was necessary to respond by way of the attached fact sheet and e-mail from Mike Hoppe, the EPA OSC

assigned to the Phase 1 Removal Action. The information contained in these two documents clearly describe why we do not agree with your finding that the Diamond Alkali site is responsible for the "burnt plastic type odor" described in your e-mail to Ken Eng. I have visited the site numerous times myself while dredging and processing were ongoing and was never subjected to such an odor. Furthermore, members of the ICC have also visited the site and did not complain of odors related to site operations.

It is my understanding that based on your findings that you have already begun to forward odor complainants to the EPA hotline. We have received a call today from someone in Jersey City over 3 miles from the site and the only site activity today was disconnecting a sewer line and the prevailing wind was blowing in the opposite direction.

Since the information we have assembled does not agree with your findings we would appreciate it if you would not forward calls to our hotline until we have had a chance to understand the rationale supporting your findings. To date, there has been no sharing of such information on the part of DEP. I think a conference call might be a good first step for us to share information and hopefully get on the same page. Let me know if that works for you. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US on 07/16/2012 03:13 PM -----

From: "Choromanski, Ed" <Ed.Choromanski@dep.state.nj.us>
To: Ken Eng/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Gaetano LaVigna/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Day, Vanessa" <Vanessa.Day@dep.state.nj.us>, "Meyer, Jeffrey" <Jeffrey.Meyer@dep.state.nj.us>, "Si, Larry" <Larry.Si@dep.state.nj.us>, Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/11/2012 06:57 AM
Subject: Odors in Newark Iron Bound Community

Ken ...

For the last three (3) months or so, NJDEP has received multiple calls related to odors within the Iron Bound Community. Although we were not able to trace the odors previously, Air C&E staff has been investigating the odors in the area and believe the odors can be traced to the Diamond Alkali site that is currently undergoing an EPA CERCLA cleanup based on their investigation yesterday. The odors have been characterized by some as a "burnt plastic type odor". Last evening, staff did trace the odors to this clean-up site following our odor response protocol.

Because the facility is a CERLCA site, I am advising you and the EPA Site coordinator ([Elizabeth Butler](#)) by this e-mail, that the activities on-going at this location is having odors that are unreasonably impacting the residents in the Iron Bound Community. We expect that EPA will insure that the contractor at the site mitigate the odors from the on-going remediation work at this site.

NJDEP will be advising the complainants to contact EPA R2 when such odors are occurring in the future. Let me know if there is anything we can do to assist EPA on this odor issue.

Edward M. Choromanski

Director

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----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US on 07/16/2012 03:13 PM -----

From: Michael Hoppe/R2/USEPA/US

To: Elizabeth Butler/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Paul J. Bluestein" <pjbluestein@tierra-inc.com>

Cc: jrodak@brwncauld.com, "Coleman King" <Coleman.King@arcadis-us.com>

Date: 07/12/2012 03:36 PM

Subject: Site Walk At UPF

Elizabeth and Paul,

I spoke to Coleman this morning regarding the NJDEP visits to the site this week and I believe that I was adequately briefed to understand any concerns involved parties might have related to Site activities.

Also, this morning I conducted a site walk with Jack Rodak and reviewed confined space entry logs as provided by Clean Harbors.

The confined space data, based on MultiRae readings, had a maximum VOC concentration of 7.0 ppm with the vast majority being 0 ppm (non-detect), with no significant variation in the recorded oxygen readings (20.9). The tank cleaning operations, based on monitoring and the site walk, likely had no off-site impact over the past couple of weeks.

During the site walk I observed vacuum truck pumping material into a roll-off box and general site break-down activities. My walk was around the perimeter of the UPF site and transects through the center. Three areas with minimal odors were observed: 1)

Vacuum Truck activities 2) Filter Press 4 Area 3) Sewer near vacuum truck

For all activities, any of the odors detected were within 10-20 feet (or less) of the specific operation or location. All odors were attributable to a cleaning or pumping activity. None of these odors would be expected to travel off-site or impact any person other than those potentially working in these immediate areas. No odors were observed during the perimeter walk.

ARCADIS is conducting air monitoring (using a MultiRAE 5-gas meter) along the perimeter fenceline and in work areas to ensure no off-site impact. No readings of any kind have been recorded at the fenceline. The perimeter walk is conducted every 1.0-1.5 hours during the work shift.

EPA and USACE will continue to observe activities at both the UPF and OU1 locations and any odors or safety concerns will be brought to the attention of ARCADIS and the HSO. Again, based on current observations and data review, I have no outstanding concerns with the H&S activities and don't believe current activities are having off-site impacts.

Michael Hoppe

Michael Hoppe
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